

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed December 15, 2003, is respectfully requested. Claims 83-84, 91, 96-99, 101, and 105 have been amended. Claims 83-91, 95-101, 104-105, and 107 remain pending in this case. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at, e.g., page 25, line 10 – page 26, line 15 and page 94, line 8 – page 97, line 12. Therefore, these amendments are made without introducing new matter.

**Drawing Informalities**

As requested by the examiner, applicants submit herewith a substitute set of formal drawings (replacement sheets 1-20).

**Title**

As requested by the examiner, the title has been amended to “Methods for Electronically-Controlled Enzymatic Reactions.”

**Vagueness and Indefiniteness**

Claims 83-91 and 95-107 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the examiner has objected to the use of the term “an electronically addressable location.” Applicants have amended claims 83 and 91 to delete “electronically addressable.” In addition, the term “substrate” has been replaced by the term “target” for clarification purposes. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration of the claims as amended.

**Art Rejections**

Claims 83, 84, and 96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kreisher (USP 4,589,965) in view of Ramachandran et al. (USP 5,109,124). Applicants have amended claims 83 and 91 to require the step of "providing a location comprising a permeation layer coupled to an electrode." Applicants respectfully assert that neither Kreisher nor Ramachandran teach or suggest the use of a permeation layer coupled to an electrode. Therefore, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims as amended.

**CONCLUSION**

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants assert the claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action on the merits of the claims is therefore earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, please contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (949) 737-2900. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with the filing of these documents to Deposit Account No. 50-2862.

Respectfully submitted,

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